

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PROVIDING FOR EXTENSIONS OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6456) to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6456

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE ANNUITANTS.

Section 824(g)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4064(g)(2)) is amended by striking "2008" each place it appears and inserting "2009".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORIES AS ELIGIBLE FOR REST AND RECOVERY TRAVEL FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended—

(1) in section 901(6)(B) (22 U.S.C. 4081(6)(B)), by inserting after "United States" the following: "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands"; and

(2) in section 903(b) (22 U.S.C. 4083(b)), by striking "its territories and possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and inserting "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PAY SUBSISTENCE OF SPECIAL AGENTS ON PROTECTIVE DETAILS.

Section 32 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2704) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking "on authorized protective missions, and" and inserting "on authorized protective missions, whether at or away from their duty stations, and".

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RADIO FREE ASIA.

Section 309(c)(2) of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208(c)(2)) is amended by striking "2009" and inserting "2010".

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES.

Section 504(c) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6206 note) is amended by striking "2008" and inserting "2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The legislation before the House today extends certain expiring authorities of the Department of State. A couple of examples. The bill continues the Department's ability to hire experienced retired officer to fill positions in Iraq or Afghanistan. This bill extends two broadcasting authorities, Radio Free Asia for an additional year and the authority to hire personal service contractors in the United States for specialized language and other skills, and several other technical provisions involving those authorities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6456, which provides stopgap extensions of certain important State Department and broadcasting authorities until the Committee on Foreign Affairs can take them up as part of a comprehensive authorization during the 111th Congress.

In response to administration requests, this brief bill does a number of things. It extends for another year the State Department's authority to hire retired Foreign Service officers for difficult-to-staff posts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to address visa and passport processing backlogs.

It also extends authorities for Radio Free Asia, and for emergency broadcasting needs in the International Broadcasting Bureau and the Voice of America. It also makes clear that the State Department may pay the hotel expenses of its special agents on protective details in situations where agents are required to remain with their protectees overnight, even when that duty occurs in the agent's home locale.

Finally, it incorporates the text of H.R. 3658, the House-passed bill introduced by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) to allow U.S. Foreign Service officers to take their rest and recuperative travel in U.S. territories. I urge support for this measure. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, has the gentleman yielded back his time?

Mr. CHABOT. If the gentleman has no further speakers, we have no further speakers either, and we will yield back.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6456, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING IRENA SENDLER

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 361) commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands during the Holocaust and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 361

Whereas on May 12, 2008, Irena Sendler, a living example of social justice, died at the age of 98;

Whereas Irena Sendler repeatedly risked her own life to rescue over 2,500 Jewish children in Poland's Warsaw ghetto from Nazi extermination during the Holocaust;

Whereas inspired by her father, a physician who spent his career treating poor Jewish patients, Irena Sendler dedicated her life to others;

Whereas Irena Sendler became an early activist at the start of World War II, heading the clandestine group Zegota and driving an underground movement that provided safe passage for Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, who were facing disease, execution, or deportation to concentration camps;

Whereas Irena Sendler became one of Zegota's most successful workers, taking charge of the children's division and using her senior position with the city's welfare department to gain access to and from the ghetto and build a network of allies to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto;

Whereas Irena Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo on October 20, 1943, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad;

Whereas Irena Sendler never revealed details of her contacts, escaped from Pawiak prison, and continued her invaluable work with Zegota;

Whereas in 1965, Irena Sendler was recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Israel;

Whereas in 2006, Irena Sendler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Irena Sendler was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration;

Whereas Irena Sendler's life has been chronicled in the documentary film, "Tzedek: The Righteous" and "Life in a Jar", a play about her rescue efforts;

Whereas Irena Sendler, a woman who risked everything for the lives of others and whose bravery is unimaginable to many of us, expressed guilt for not being able to do more for the Jewish people; and

Whereas Americans, as well as the world community, are reminded not only of the horrible cruelty at the time of the Holocaust, but also the incredible difference one person can make by knowing Irena Sendler's story: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust;

(2) pays its respect and extends its condolences to the Sendler family;

(3) honors her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope; and

(4) remembers the life of Irena Sendler for her heroic efforts to save over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust, and for her unwavering dedication to justice and human rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this measure has been brought to us by our colleague, the gentlelady from Chicago (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY). It notes the loss of a true humanitarian last May, with the passing of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who rescued 2,500 Jewish children from near certain death in the Warsaw Ghetto.

When it became clear to her that the Nazis planned to exterminate Poland's 1,000-year-old Jewish community, Ms. Sendler joined Zegota, the Council for Aid to Jews, an organization run by the Polish underground, committed to providing assistance and safe haven to the country's Jewish population.

Ms. Sendler became head of Zegota's children's department. Using her contacts from her days as a social worker, she placed thousands of Jewish children smuggled from the Warsaw Ghetto, often under Christianized names, in convents and orphanages to shelter them throughout the war.

These convents and orphanages were intended as temporary refuges, as Ms. Sendler recorded the actual names of these children on tissue paper. She stored those records in jars, buried them in her garden, in the hope that after the war, they would be reunited with their families.

In 1965, she was given the honor of being named Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Her legacy of courage and hope until then was little known in Poland.

In 2003, Irena Sendler finally received the widespread recognition she so greatly deserved when she was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration, and in 2006, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

We all pay our respects and extend our condolences to the Sendler family.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Holocaust was filled with unconscionable inhumanity and horrors and revealed the tremendous cruelty some human beings are capable of imposing on others. But there were exceptions. Within the darkness of the Holocaust, the story of Irena Sendler, who repeatedly risked her own life to rescue thousands of Jewish children in Poland from being murdered by the Nazis serves as an inspirational example of human bravery and selflessness and compassion.

House Concurrent Resolution 361 commemorates Irena Sendler, who passed away in May of this year. The resolution, among other things, notes that the United States Congress mourns the loss of this heroine and remembers her for saving the lives of thousands of Jewish children and for her courageous dedication to justice and human rights.

I support this resolution, and I want to thank the gentleman for his inspirational words. I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield such time as she may consume to the author of the resolution, the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 361, a resolution I introduced commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands of children during the Holocaust, and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness and hope. I want to thank Chairman BERMAN for his leadership in bringing this to the floor, and also Senator OBAMA for offering similar legislation in the Senate.

Irena Sendler lived her life by the standards of humanity that she learned from her parents. She once stated, "I was taught that if you see a person drowning, you must jump into the water to save them, whether you can swim or not."

Sendler was a 29-year-old Catholic employed by the City of Warsaw when the German invasion of Poland ushered in one of the darkest chapters in human history. Disguised as an infection-control nurse, she was able to enter the Warsaw Jewish ghetto to distribute supplies. In 1942, Sendler joined the newly formed underground organization Zegota, working to assist thousands of Jews who had survived mass deportations and were living in hiding.

Utilizing her contacts with orphanages, Sendler organized the rescue of Jewish children, smuggling some out in boxes and suitcases, leading others through secret passages and sewers. Children were hidden in Roman Catholic orphanages and convents, as well as private homes, under false identities. Sendler buried a jar with the true name of every child in a friend's garden in hopes of reuniting the children with their families after the war.

After she was arrested in October of 1943, Sendler refused to provide the list of names or the identity of her collabo-

rators, even when she was tortured and sentenced to death. She was spared execution only because underground activists managed to bribe officials. After her release, Sendler was forced into hiding but she continued to work to rescue Jewish children. It is estimated that she rescued over 2,500 children.

She passed away in May of 2008 at the age of 98. I introduced this resolution with the hope that her legacy will inspire people to fight for human rights. Her heroic story reminds us that the actions of one person can make a real difference in this world.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, pay tribute to Irena Sendler, and remind all of us to stand up against oppression and fight for those without a voice.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 361, a resolution I introduced commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands of children during the Holocaust, and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman BERMAN, for his leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor today. I would also like to thank Senator OBAMA for offering similar legislation in the Senate.

Irena Sendler lived her life by the standards of compassion and humanity that she learned from her parents. She once stated, "I was taught that if you see a person drowning, you must jump into the water to save them, whether you can swim or not."

Sendler was a 29-year-old Polish Catholic, employed by the city of Warsaw as a social worker, when the German invasion of Poland ushered in one of the darkest chapters in human history. Jews were rounded up and crowded into the Warsaw ghetto, where poor hygiene and a lack of food and medical supplies led to the outbreak of disease. Sendler managed to pass herself off as an infection-control nurse, enabling her to enter the ghetto and distribute supplies, and she began to smuggle Jews out of the ghetto and into hiding. In 1942, the underground organization Council for the Aid of Jews, known as Zegota, was established following the deportation of 280,000 Jews from Warsaw to Treblinka. Sendler joined the organization, working to assist thousands of Jews who had survived the deportations and were living in hiding.

Working with Zegota, Sendler utilized her contacts with orphanages to rescue Jewish children. Young children were smuggled out in boxes and suitcases; older children were led through secret passages and sewers. Many of the children were sent to Roman Catholic orphanages and convents, while others were hidden in private homes. All were given false identities and non-Jewish names. Sendler buried a jar with the true names of every child in a friend's garden, in hopes of reuniting the children with their families after the war.

A mother herself, Sendler later recalled that the most difficult part of her work was to convince parents to give their children into her care. They would ask her if she could guarantee their survival, and she would respond that she could not, but she could guarantee that they would likely die if they stayed.

Irena Sendler was arrested by the Nazis in October 1943. She managed to hide critical information, including the addresses of the hidden children, before her capture. Although she endured torture and was sentenced to death, she refused to provide the location of the lists of names or the identity of her collaborators. She was spared execution only because other underground activists managed to bribe officials.

After her release, Sendler was forced to go into hiding, but she nevertheless continued to work to rescue Jewish children. Although the exact number of children she saved is unknown, it is widely estimated to be over 2,500. After the war, she unearthed the hidden lists and worked to reunite the children with their families. A large majority of the children had no surviving family members, and many were adopted by Polish families, while others were sent to Israel.

Irena Sendler's remarkable story garnered little attention after the war. She was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Yad Vashem on October 19, 1965, but her story was not widely known until 1999, when four high school students in Kansas wrote a play, *Life in a Jar*, based on her life. The play has since been performed across the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2003, she was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration, and in 2007 she was honored by the Polish parliament, which unanimously approved a resolution honoring her for organizing the rescue of Jewish children. She was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Irena Sendler passed away in May 2008 at the age of 98. Even though her actions saved countless innocent children from a horrific death, she said that she always regretted being unable to do more.

In speaking about those non-Jews, like Irena Sendler, who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, Elie Weisel stated, "In those times there was darkness everywhere. In heaven and on earth, all the gates of compassion seemed to have been closed. The killer killed and the Jews died and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or of indifference. Only a few had the courage to care. These few men and women were vulnerable, afraid, helpless—what made them different from their fellow citizens? . . . Why were there so few?"

I introduced this resolution with the hope that Irena Sendler's legacy would help inspire people to fight for human rights and social justice. Her heroic story reminds us that the actions of one person can make a real difference in this world. As the Talmud teaches, "whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." There is no higher act of selflessness than to protect people who cannot defend themselves.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, to pay tribute to Irena Sendler and to remind all of us to stand up against oppression and fight for those without a voice.

Mr. CHABOT. We will yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 361.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING ALBANIA AND CROATIA ON BEING INVITED TO BEGIN ACCESSION TALKS WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1266) congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1266

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to strengthen further the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the historic nature of that achievement, earned through years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment to common security and the shared values of NATO members;

(2) congratulates Albania and Croatia on the signing of the Accession Protocols by NATO members on July 9, 2008, opening the way for full NATO membership for both countries;

(3) expresses strong support for the timely completion of the accession process with Albania and Croatia;

(4) fully supports the invitations to initiate an Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

(5) supports the enlargement of NATO and believes that continued engagement with all countries that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

(6) supports the declaration of NATO at the Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door should remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, in accordance with article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

(7) affirms the statement in that declaration that any decision with respect to the membership of countries in NATO will be made through consensus, by members of NATO, and no country outside of NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such decisions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution, which was introduced by my good friend, the ranking member of the Europe Subcommittee, ELTON GALLEGLEY, the gentleman from California, a resolution that congratulates Albania and Croatia on receiving an invitation to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expresses support for further expansion of the alliance.

At the NATO summit held in Bucharest this past April, the alliance made notable progress on integrating the Balkans into this important Euro-Atlantic institution. Most significantly, NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks. I was pleased to see that accession protocols were signed with both countries on July 9th.

These two countries, Albania and Croatia, have made remarkable progress in reforming their political institutions and strengthening their military capabilities in recent years. They will make important contributions to international security, as well as to the stability of Southeastern Europe.

NATO has also recognized the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries in the region. The alliance responded positively to a request from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to intensify their engagement. Both countries have been active